May 2.

The President, Dr. Leidy, in the chair.

Thirty-three persons present.

The death of Edw. Desor, a correspondent, was announced.

On Some Entozoa of Birds.—Prof. Leidy directed attention to some specimens presented by Joseph Willcox, recently collected by him in Florida. One of the specimens is the head of a Snake-bird *Plotus anhinga*, with a worm in sight, lying upon the brain; while several other detached worms of the same kind lay at the bottom of the vial. The worm in its singular habitation was discovered by Prof. Wyman, in Florida, in 1861 and 1867, an account of which is given in the Proceedings of the Boston Society of Natural History, volume 12, 1868. Prof. Wyman had kindly presented Prof. Leidy with a specimen of the head of the Snake-bird, with the worms lying on the brain. This he had valued as a memento of his friend, but it had, unfortunately, been lost in the fire at Swarthmore College, last autumn. Prof. Wyman states that the parasites were found coiled on the back of the cerebellum between the arachnoid and pia mater. The number varied from two to six or eight, or even more. In nineteen birds they were detected in seventeen. Mr. Wilcox found the parasite in four out of six birds examined. In the present specimen of a head, a single worm is enclosed between the two laminæ of the dura mater over the position of the interval of the cerebrum and cerebellum. As the parasite appears not to have been named, it was suggested that the name of its discoverer should be associated with it under the name Filaria Wymani.

The accompanying four vials contain numbers of worms obtained from the stomachs of the Snake-bird, the Cormorant, *Graculus dilophus*, the White Pelican, *Pelecanus trachyrhynchus* and the Brown Pelican, *P. fuscus*. All prove to be of the same species, the *Ascaris spiculigera*. Specimens of these were also formerly obtained by Samuel Ashmead, in Florida, from the White Pelican, (Proc. Ac. Nat. Sci. 1858, 112). The same, likewise, have been submitted for examination by Dr. Elliott Coues, who procured them from the White Pelican, on the Red River of the North. See Birds of the North West, 1874, 587.

On a Coprolite and a Pebble resembling an Indian Hammer.—Prof. Leidy further exhibited a specimen which he had picked up from a pile of the irregular phosphatic nodules brought from Ashley River, South Carolina, for the manufacture of a fertilizer. The nodule, of several pounds weight, is a flattened oval black

mass, which he supposed to be the coprolite of a zeuglodont or cetacean.

He also exhibited a quartzite pebble, from a gravel bank in the University ground, West Philadelphia. It has a near resemblance to the stone hammers, with a groove around the middle, found in the ancient copper mines of Lake Superior. Notwithstanding this resemblance it is evidently a water-rolled pebble, the groove resulting from action on a softer stratum of the quartzite.

Historical Notes on the Arbor Vitæ.—Mr. Thomas Meehan noted in detail the reasons given by various authors for the name *Arbor Vitæ* in connection with *Thuja occidentalis*—reasons unsatisfactory even to the authors who advanced them. He referred to the statement of Ray in his "Historia Plantarum" that the tree was first introduced from Canada to France and named *Arbre de Vie*, by King Francis the First. Francis died in 1547. The seeds from which these plants were raised could scarcely have been obtained in any other way than through Jacques Cartier's expedition, say in 1534, and we may, therefore, conclude that *Thuja occidentalis* was among the first, perhaps the first North American plant to become known in Europe. Parkman, in his "Pioneers of France," graphically describes the sufferings of Cartier's band during the winter of their encampment near the junction of the River Lairet with the St. Charles. Twenty-five died of scurvy and the rest were sick but two. A friendly Indian told him of an evergreen which they called "Annedda," a decoction of which was sovereign against the disease. In six days the sufferers had drunk a tree as large as a French oak, *Quercus ilex?*, "the distemper relaxed its hold and health and hope began to revisit the hopeless company," (p. 195). This Annedda seems to have been identified with the White Spruce, *Abies alba*, and is, as I am informed by Dr. W. R. Gerard, the same as the Mohawk "Onnita," and the Onondaga "Onnetta." According to Rafinesque, the spruce beer of the Indians was made of the young tops and young leaves of this tree boiled together with maple sugar, and was one of their famous remedies for scurvy. Rafinesque also says that a decoction of the leaves of the Arbor Vitæ was an Indian remedy for scurvy and rheumatism; besides the leaves with bear's grease being used externally. Rafinesque, however, believes it was the White Spruce which saved the lives of Cartier's band, and if the "Annedda" of the Indians is really the White Spruce, the evidence through the statement made so soon after Cartier's expedition that the health-giving plant was the "Annedda," is strong. But spruce beer could not have been made in the winter season—the leaves only were used. There is no evidence that the White Spruce was known in Europe till towards the end of the 18th century. It is but natural that whatever the tree might have been, it was a veritable tree of life—an *Arbre de Vie*, to the voyagers. They would certainly make every effort to take with them to their native land